

Minutes for 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2025

Members Present Hietpas, Jakel, Rumbuc, Eggleston, Manion, White, Breitzman, Pautz, and Van Berkel

Not Present West

Also Present Brad Garrity and Cassandra Kohls

White called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. A quorum was present.

Public Appearances None

February 20, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

Pautz recommended changing the next Committee date from 3/7/25 to 3/20/25. Under New Business, change "Post Crescent" to "Times-Villager" and "Kat Berge" to "Kathy Breitzman" for bird diorama assistance. Manion moved to approve the February 20, 2025, meeting minutes with these corrections; Hietpas seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

Pautz suggested the Kaukauna Area School District (KASD) pay in two installments instead of one lump sum. Van Berkel confirmed the KASD payment was received in October 2024. The Committee questioned the gift shop's February Actuals, which Kohls will review and revise. Jakel moved to approve and file the February financial report; Van Berkel seconded. Motion carried.

Donation Report

Eggleston asked about the payment from Kaukauna Utilities (KU). Kohls confirmed KU donated the cost of tree seedlings to 1000 Islands in two installments, both of which have been received. The nursery has been paid in full. Manion moved to approve and file the February donation report; Jakel seconded. Motion carried.

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

Hietpas thanked the Committee for their assistance with the Pancake and Porkie Breakfast, which served 294 adults and 90 children. Funds raised were similar to last year, with Manion noting higher attendance. They ran out of applesauce, plates, and napkins. The Committee appreciated the new pancake press and griddles, and pre-cooked sausage, all of which worked well this year. Due to a malfunctioning coffee pot, Friends will consider purchasing a new one, along with a recommended hand mixer and a heavy-duty bowl to replace a broken one. The new syrup bottles were effective, and Mickey Mouse-shaped pancakes were popular with children. Standard portion sizes were suggested to reduce food waste. The event raised approximately \$2,500, with Thrivent contributing \$250 via an action team card.

Maple sap collection is slow this year, but some syrup will be available in the gift shop. The flowering trees will shorten the season.

The Art Fair is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 2025.

Naturalist's Report

Garrity announced a new program for Earth Day featuring yoga by Unknown Yogi, story time, River View Art Show, snacks/craft, and self-guided hikes.

Garrity highlighted the summer programs and introduced new offerings: Plein Air Art, Trivia/Pizza Party, Hike on Island 3, Dog Walk with a Naturalist, 1000 Little Wonders Saturday Edition, and Dames Rocket and Garlic Mustard Games. The Moonlit Luminary Hike, initially canceled in February, was rescheduled for March. The Luminary Hike on March 7 attracted 600 participants.

The snowshoe rental season lasted two days, with a few snowshoes rented.

Radtke completed the boardwalk project ahead of schedule. Benches and signage will be installed throughout the summer, and railings will be adjusted after settling in spring. Five swamp pans will also be addressed. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held later.

Siding replacement is in progress, with some exterior lighting updated. Gonnering is set to paint the door frames white, and some damaged/missing soffit will be replaced. Eggleston praised the siding color and the Street Department's work. Jabber was temporarily relocated to the front office due to construction noise. Hietpas requested adjustments to structures impeding siding installation on the northwest side of the Nature Center.

Admin and Finance Sub-Committee

No report

Education Sub-Committee

A meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2025, at 10:00 AM at 1000 Islands.

Building & Grounds

Eggleston requested a meeting to set priorities and evaluate costs for the Capital Improvement Plan and Operational Budget. Committee agreed to discuss this further.

A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the lighted crossing. Manion suggested reaching out to John Neumeier for cost estimates. Garrity mentioned that the County has approved the "trail crossing ahead" signs. The Street Department will create and install the signs.

Old Business

Garrity reported that honeybees will not be purchased in 2025 due to insufficient time to train staff in beekeeping, amend the necessary ordinance, and order a colony and beekeeping equipment. The City Attorney has requested an enclosure around the beehive, which will need to be included in the budget. Eggleston inquired about the reason for the enclosure, and Garrity explained it is to keep people away from the bees.

Garrity stated Comprehensive Conservancy Zone Planning is underway. Outagamie County Land Conservation Department (OC LCD) has applied for a grant to address three areas of concern on the Hoersch property. OC LCD has proposed constructing a step pool and filling in a gully. Access to the project area could be obtained through the existing easement. Garrity suggested a certified survey to confirm the lot lines near the easement area.

Radtke's lumber quote for replacing the bridge by the kayak launch was too high. Staff will procure lumber to repair the bridge instead.

New Business

Goats from Mulberry Lane Farm will be at 1000 Islands from June 9 - June 23. The ordinance permitting their presence on the property will be presented to the Council.

An Eagle Scout project to install stairs to the creek to improve accessibility for crayfishing is underway. The Eagle Scout is currently drafting plans. Swamp pans may be used to eliminate permit requirements. Vosters is verifying the property ownership for the planned construction area.

Good of the Center

Garrity thanked the Committee.

Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on April 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Manion moved to adjourn the March 20, 2025, Committee Meeting at 7:37 PM. Seconded by Hietpas. Motion carried.

Cassandra Kohls, Administrative Assistant